

family Mustelidae was obtained from a shop in Cherrapunji on 31-iii-1971 where it was exhibited for sale. The animal had been killed about three weeks earlier at Mawblang, near Cherrapunji where it had been trapped in a poultry shed at night while trying to get at the chickens. We have seen similar skins from other localities at Cherrapunji and also at Nongpo, both in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya.

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EASTERN REGIONAL STATION,
ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
SHILLONG,
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R. S. PILLAI
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2. HABITS OF A SMALL INDIAN CIVET [*VIVERRICULA INDICA* (DESMAREST)]

Recently a villager brought a young Small Indian Civet (*Viverricula indica*) to me. The animal was completely tame and we have had it as a pet for more than two months at the time of writing.

A week ago another villager cutting rice in a small field not far from my house found a litter of five baby civets, of the same species, in the middle of the field and brought them to me after the mother had run away. We are now rearing these by hand on Largactil and they appear to be flourishing.

On consulting Prater's BOOK OF INDIAN ANIMALS, I find two statements in it concerning *Viverricula indica* which do not conform to my observations of the six animals mentioned.

Prater states (page 87) that civets are mute, but the larger civet I have constantly makes a tick-tick-tick sound when agitated in any way, either by pleasure, alarm or merely *Joie de vivre*. The five baby civets also make this tick-tick-tick noise and, in addition, utter extremely loud and piercing cat-like miaows occasionally, apparently as an expression of hunger.

Of *Viverricula indica* specifically, Prater says, 'Though it climbs well and can scale a vertical trunk with ease . . .'. I find that my large tame specimen is not a climber at all. Indeed, when placed on my shoulder, on a wall, or on a tree, he appears to be most unsteady and unable to hold on in any way and quite often tumbles awkwardly down. The animal is in perfect health and is quite without any kind

